



January 10, 2023

TO: Chapter Advisers

FR: Patricia DiGioia-Laird
Stacey Dworzanski

RE: 2023 State Leadership Conference

Second semester is on our doorstep. We are sending this information to help you pull everything together for your chapters.

The 2023 Leadership Bootcamp was a great success. The students were terrific and the content of the conference was exciting for the students and advisers. The message was about appreciation and the trainers used the **5 Languages of Appreciation** as the core of the event. The conference was a virtual meeting but each chapter had a watch party at their school. It was positive, energetic and enlightening. Thank you to the advisers who attended. We shared a very rewarding day with professional development and stimulating conversation.

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his or her own improvement and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful."

-- Marie Curie

Now, onto the 2023 State Leadership Conference... We are trying to move toward a pre-pandemic conference experience. At this conference, New Jersey FCCLA members will explore current issues, network with FCCLA members from across the state and challenge themselves to achieve in competitive events. This conference is a **two-day experience** and chapters are expected to participate for the duration of the meeting; one day registration is not offered. This exceptional conference is full of motivating and exciting educational experiences for members and advisers. So, plan on attending the **New Jersey FCCLA 76th Annual State Leadership Conference on Thursday and Friday, March 23 and 24, 2023 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Cherry Hill.**

FCCLA COMPETITIVE AND STAR EVENTS

Please refer to the 2023 New Jersey Competitive Events Guidelines that are posted on the NJ FCCLA website. The guidelines are password protected but the password was sent to all advisers before the winter break. The National STAR Events guidelines have been "tweaked" to accommodate the NJ FCCLA competition process. The State and STAR Events reflect the current New Jersey Learning Standards, the National Standards for FCS, and Career Ready Practices. Each event has a limited number of students from each chapter who may participate; this number varies due to space and time restrictions. Team events allow for a maximum of 3 members (except Parliamentary Procedure.) ***Read the guidelines with care and do not rely on past experiences.***

The **Program Cover Design** is due at the end of January. It must be postmarked on or before **January 31st**. The entry must be sent through email in a digital format to njfccla@gmail.com.

Students participating in **Repurpose and Redesign** are required to recycle a maximum of two (2) men's dress shirts plus a second item of their choice.

Luncheon Menu Showcase features **Trio of Sliders**. Be sure to closely examine the guidelines.

The **Cake Decorating Event** will focus on a **Bon Voyage** themed cake.

The **Successories** event will feature a **Hat**.

The **Art of Garde Manger** will center on a **Charcuterie Board**.

The general guidelines clearly state (found on the website):

No project can be entered in more than one category or in more than one event. However, projects entered in any event may be included within the Chapter in Review event. Fashion Runway, Fashion Construction and Fashion Design are separate events and the same garment may not be entered in multiple events.

FCCLA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2023 State Leadership Conference registration, hotel/meals registration and the competitive events registration forms can be found on the NJ FCCLA website. Recognition applications and the State Officer Candidate Application are also on the website.

Take careful note of the following procedures and information.

DO NOT DELAY MAILING THE FORMS. If payment is required do not wait for checks to be written. Mark forms “CHECKS TO FOLLOW”.

1. All forms must be typed and postmarked on or before the due date listed on each form. **February 1st** for the State Officer Application. **February 10th** for conference registration, competitive events registration, and hotel / meal package registration. **February 10th** for the daily meals form. A late fee of \$50.00 will be charged to chapters who do not meet the deadline date.

Send all materials certified mail, return receipt requested.

2. The **REGISTRATION FEE** is a **PER PERSON FEE** and should be sent to the FCCLA office by FEBRUARY 10th. A school check should be made payable to New Jersey FCCLA. **DO NOT** delay mailing the registration form to wait for a check.
3. **NO REGISTRATION REFUNDS WILL BE MADE. LISTING NAMES ON A REGISTRATION FORM IS A COMMITMENT TO PAY.**
4. The **CHAPERONE TO STUDENT RATIO IS AN ADVISER/ADULT PER (10) TEN STUDENTS**. State Officers are part of the chapter's total participation. The registration of chapters not meeting this requirement will not be accepted. Chaperones will be verified at registration.
5. Although the pandemic is over, the threat of Covid and all its variants still exists. We are requiring high quality /well-fitted masks for all participants at this conference. We recommend testing participants before they come but that is a choice at the local level. Testing just before you travel is a benefit for the chapter adviser because you will not need to deal with sick children.
6. **ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING THE STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE MUST PAY AFFILIATION DUES. [Students entering the competitive events must be affiliated by February 1, 2023.](#)**
7. **Schools are exempt from sales tax and occupancy tax** if the method of payment is a school purchase order and school check. A tax exempt letter must be sent to the hotel to be kept on file. When paying with personal checks, credit cards and cash, you will be charged an additional 15% tax (7% sales tax and 8% occupancy tax).

The package rates for the conference include room accommodations for Thursday night and three meals including gratuities (dinner on Thursday, breakfast and a banquet luncheon on Friday). Remember to arrange for dinner on Wednesday evening and breakfast on Thursday. There will be a cash and carry lunch available on Thursday. **Please be cautious when listing dietary needs such as vegetarian or food allergies. It is very difficult for the hotel to accommodate this without prior information.** Pay attention to the deadline dates and be sure to reserve your hotel/meal packages by the deadline date. The hotel will not guarantee the conference rate after that date. **THE HOTEL/MEAL PACKAGE REGISTRATION FORM AND FULL PAYMENT for the room and meals should be sent to the hotel by February 10, 2023.** There is a shortage of double/double rooms. These rooms will be a first come / first served basis. If you are planning for 4 students in a room, be sure to send your hotel registration promptly.

When you arrive on Thursday, rooms will be assigned on a "First Come, First Serve" basis at the DoubleTree Hotel. Every effort will be made to accommodate the chapter's belongings upon arrival. However, check-out time for the previous night's guests is not until 12:00 noon, making check-in 4:00 PM. Therefore, members and advisers must arrive in business attire, ready for the meeting and the competitive events. Some chapters rent one or more rooms for Wednesday night to accommodate the arrival of the chapter as they wait for check-in. Be sure to reserve this room on the hotel registration sheet.

On Friday, there is a limited number of late check out rooms available/ one per school for chapter advisers ONLY. The cost of this service is \$75.00 per room.

If your chapter is commuting each day to the conference, please indicate *COMMUTERS* on the hotel/meal package registration form and send it to the NJ FCCLA office. Commuting chapters must reserve one hotel room as their home base and a place to store coats, purses and other project materials.

8. **MEAL TICKETS FOR THE THURSDAY DINNER AND FRIDAY AWARDS BANQUET LUNCHEON** may be reserved for commuters and school administrators. Use the *Daily Guest Meal Form* found on the website. Reservations must be made in writing on the form with one complete payment per chapter; personal checks will not be accepted. Phone reservations will not be honored. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE.** Make checks payable to New Jersey FCCLA.
9. **COMPETITIVE EVENTS PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER, AND ALSO BE REGISTERED ON SITE FOR THEIR EVENTS BY THEIR CHAPTER ADVISERS ON THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 23rd.** *Students are not permitted to register themselves.* For chapters arriving on Wednesday evening, early registration will be made available at 9:45 PM.
10. Substitutes will not be accepted in the competitive events after the registration deadline. If an adviser switches a student from one event or category to another after registration, 10 points will be deducted from the student's scoresheet.
11. **FASHION RUNWAY, FASHION CONSTRUCTION AND FASHION DESIGN COMPETITORS ARE REQUIRED TO MODEL THEIR GARMENTS FRIDAY MORNING AT THE GENERAL SESSION.** A workshop rehearsal will be held on Thursday night. Please check the program for time and location and plan to attend.
12. **QUALIFIED JUDGES NEEDED!** An educational and successful competitive event program is directly related to the quality of the adult judges involved. Each chapter is expected to recommend three judges using the Judges Information sheet. Please recommend potential judges to the state office that are from business and industry, have big hearts, and like kids. Please submit names no later than February 1st.

13. If **alumni** come as a chapter chaperone, they are included on the chapter registration forms and are subjected to registration fees, etc.
14. **THIS IS A SMOKE FREE CONFERENCE! NO SMOKING OR VAPING IS ALLOWED FOR STUDENTS, ADVISERS, CHAPERONES, OR ALUMNI AT ANY TIME EVEN IN PUBLIC AREAS THAT PERMIT SMOKING.** Chapter advisers are asked to enforce this rule with their participants.
15. **DRESS IS BUSINESSLIKE ATTIRE AT ALL TIMES** except for the Thursday evening entertainment that calls for appropriate casual attire. Businesslike attire includes: a dress shirt with collar, neck tie, dress pants, businesslike tops and blazers and dress shoes. Skirts need to be knee length. Jeans, leggings, midriff shirts, tank tops, mini skirts, t-shirts, low cut blouses, work boots, sneakers and Uggs are some of the items not considered part of business attire. ***Participants NOT dressed appropriately in BUSINESS ATTIRE will NOT be allowed on stage to receive awards!***
16. **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS.** Only students who want a complete conference experience should attend the SLC. Competitive events are an important part of the conference, but are not the main focus. Therefore, participation is required at all the general sessions and a minimum of two workshops on Thursday, March 23rd and all the sessions on Friday, March 24th to be eligible for awards. ***Leaving a General Session prior to the close of the session is considered unprofessional behavior and can result in disqualification from competitive events.***
17. The **Voting Delegate Registration Form** must be completed by every chapter attending the State Leadership Conference. The voting delegates are key to the elections of the State Officers and the approval of the bylaws. This responsibility is an important part of the learning experience and should be taken seriously.
18. **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES...**
Two New Jersey FCCLA scholarships and one NJ Friends of FCCLA scholarship will be awarded. There is one scholarship application for all of these scholarship opportunities and it is available on the NJ FCCLA website.
19. Applications are available on the website for the **STATE PRESIDENT'S AWARD, ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD, FRIENDS OF NJ FCCLA AWARD** and **THE ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD**. This is a great way to honor individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty for New Jersey FCCLA.
20. **MASTER ADVISER AND ADVISER MENTOR APPLICATIONS** are available on the National Website. The **KAREN OPYOKE AWARD APPLICATION** can be found on the NJ FCCLA website. Take time to complete these applications and receive the recognition you deserve. This is great PR for your local chapter and the Family and Consumer Sciences Department.
21. At the Closing General Session, time is taken to recognize our senior members who are graduating. Upon registration you will receive a Chapter Folder, shared with you via email, to upload pictures of your graduating seniors. **Please upload individual photos of your graduating members by March 1st** if you want these members included in the farewell presentation. The plan for sending the pictures will be sent to you in February. I recommend that you assign this responsibility to a senior chapter officer.

In conclusion, the state office staff is available to help you prepare for the State Leadership Conference. For teacher convenience, please contact the state office by E-mail and your message will be answered promptly; njfccla@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to working with you at the 2023 State Leadership Conference!